

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04236 071406Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 446

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USNMAR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE

USCOSOUTH

DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US

SUBJ: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS:
HELLENIKON APPENDIX

REF: A. 76 ATHENS 10915(DTG 110526Z OCT 76); B. STATE 79933
(DTG 090001Z APR 77); C. ATHENS 3845(DTG 271356Z APR 77)

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETINGS ON MAY 4 AND 6, THE WORKING
GROUP REACHED AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE TO COMPLETE THE HELLENIKON
APPENDIX AND ANNEX A. LIMIT ON RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT
DEPLOYED TO HELLENIKON REMAINS AT FOUR BUT GREEKS AGREED TO
SUPPLEMENTARY LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD NEGATE THIS LIMIT IN PRAC-
TICE. HELLENIKON PERSONNEL LEVEL WAS FIXED AT 1452. GREEKS
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04236 071406Z

AGREED THAT CERTAIN U.S. PERSONNEL NOW OFF-BASE, BUT EARMARKED
TO MOVE ON-BASE WITHIN THE 1452 LIMIT, COULD REMAIN OFF
THE BASE, EFFECTIVELY INCREASING U.S. PERSONNEL AUTHORI-
ZATIONS ABOVE THE 1452 WE DESIRED. ACTION REQUEST: SEE
PARA 9. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTICLE IV.1: U.S. SIDE AGREED TO REPLACE THE PHRASE

"ARE AUTHORIZED TO" WITH THE WORD "MAY" TO HELP SATISFY GREEK PRESENTATIONAL CONCERNS AND NERVOUSNESS THAT THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION SOMEHOW MIGHT TRY TO RELATE "AUTHORIZED" WITH A RELINQUISHMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY. PARA NOW READS:

"1. IN ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION OF UNITED STATES ELBY
URFP HELLENIKON AIR BASE, UNITED STATES FORCES MAY
USE ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH
2 OF THIS ARTICLE AS A POINT OF ENTRY AND DEPARTURE FOR
AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY OR EXCLUSIVELY FOR UNITED STATES
AUTHORITIES."

(COMMENT: WITH THIS CHANGE, THE PARA STILL SERVES THE
PURPOSE INTENDED IN THE ORIGINAL U.S. FORMULATION, I.E.,
TO CLOSE A TECHNICAL GAP IN THE ANNEX BY DOCUMENTING U.S.
USE OF THE ATHENS AIRPORT AS AN AIR ACCESS GATE TO U.S.
FACILITIES LOCATED ON HELLENIKON AIR BASE.)

3. ARTICLE IV.2B (REF B, PARA 2.B): GREEKS WERE ADAMANT
IN DISPLAYING THE LOWEST POSSIBLE NUMBER IN SPECIFYING A
LIMIT ON U.S. RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED AT HELLENIKON.
HOWEVER, THEY AGREED TO THE U.S.-PROPOSED LAST SENTENCE
IN THE SUBPARA WHICH EFFECTIVELY NEGATES ANY LIMITS
PREVIOUSLY STATED. SUBPARA NOW READS:

"B. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS. FOUR UNITED STATES
MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED ON A ROTATIONAL
BASIS AT HELLENIKON AIR BASE WILL CARRY OUT FLIGHTS WITHIN
THE LEVELS DERIVING FROM RECENT PRACTICE AS RECORDED BY
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PAGE 03 ATHENS 04236 071406Z

COMPETENT GREEK AUTHORITIES AND WILL AVOID PEAK AIR TRAFFIC
PERIODS OF THE AIRPORT TO THE MAXIMUM PRACTICABLE EXTENT,
MONTHLY FLIGHT SCHEDULES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMPETENT
GREEK AUTHORITIES IN ADVANCE, INCLUDING THE SAME FLIGHT DATA
USUALLY REQUIRED ON A ICAO FLIGHT PLAN. UNDER SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUESTS FOR AN ADDITIONAL LIMITED NUMBER OF
AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED TO HELLENIKON AIR BASE OR ADDITIONAL FLIGHT
WILL BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED BY APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES."

4. ARTICLE IV.3 WAS DELETED (REF C. PARA 3).

5. ANNEX A, PARA 3 WAS CHANGED FOR ACCURACY. IT NOW READS:
"3. LOCATION: HELLENIKON, ATHENS, GREECE."

6. ANNEX A, PARA 4 (REF B, PARA 4.A): AFTER MAKING A FINAL
ATTEMPT TO HOLD AT 1400, THE GREEKS AGREED TO A 1452 U.S.
PERSONNEL LEVEL AT HELLENIKON. THE GREEKS ACCEPTED THE
SCHEME INITIALLY PROPOSED BY THE U.S. TO SPECIFY A LOWER
NUMBER AND PROVIDE FOR A FLUCTUATION UP TO THE DESIRED LEVEL.

THIS FLUCTUATION WAS EMBODIED IN PARA 4 OF THE ANNEX RATHER THAN A SEPARATE CLASSIFIED EXCHANGE OF NOTES AS ORIGINALLY DESIRED BY THE GREEKS. THIRD SENTENCE OF PARA WAS DROPPED TO ELIMINATE REDUNDANCY WITH DCA ARTICLE VI.1. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, WE ALSO CONVINCED GREEKS THAT TEXT SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO EXEMPT EXPLICITLY RATHER THAN IMPLICITLY TDY PERSONNEL FROM THE 1452 LEVEL. PARA 4 NOW READS:

"4 PERSONNEL STRENGTHS. THE AUTHORIZED UNITED STATES PERSONNEL STRENGTH FOR PERSONS ASSIGNED FOR DUTY ON HELLENIKON AIR BASE IS 1210. THIS STRENGTH MAY VARY BY 20 PERCENT TO ACCOMMODATE FLUCTUATING PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, THE ABOVE TOTAL AUTHORIZATION DOES NOT APPLY TO BRIEF PERSONNEL OVERLAP CAUSED BY NORMAL PERSONNEL ROTATIONS OR TO TEMPORARY DUTY PERSONNEL FOR LIMITED PERIODS. PERSONNEL STRENGTH FOREACH OF THE ACTIVITIES SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE I OF THIS APPENDIX SHALL
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ATHENS 04236 071406Z

BE PROVIDED TO THE INSTALLATION COMMANDER BY THE UNITED STATES SENIOR OFFICER AND SHALL CONSTITUTE THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTHS FOR EACH SUCH ACTIVITY. SMALL INCREASES IN THE ABOVE PER ACTIVITY STRENGTHS NOT EXCEEDING APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT SHALL NOT REQUIRE THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE COMPETENT GREEK AUTHORITIES."

7. DURING TH LAST ROUND, THE GREEKS WITHDREW THEIR FORMER AGREEMENT TO THE CONCEPT OF OFF-BASE RELOCATION IN FAVOR OF A HIGHER ON-BASE U.S. POPULATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY INSISTED THAT U.S. ACTIVITIES NOW OFF THE BASE BUT NOT ASSOCIATED WITH DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE TO MOVE ON AND BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE U.S. PERSONNEL LEVEL FINALLY AGREED. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION THESE INCLUDE: PROCUREMENT OFFICE (11 PERSONS); AAFEE'S REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, LOCATED ABOVE THE GLYFADA STEAK HOUSE (33 PERSONS); CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OFFICE AND COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, LOCATED IN "TEMPO 1" ACROSS FROM THE AIR BASE (14 PERSONS). THE TOTAL NUMBER OF U.S. PERSONNEL CONNECTED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES WAS, OF COURSE, INCLUDED IN U.S. COMPUTATION TO ARRIVE AT THE 1452 FIGURE.

8. AFTER AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON 1452, THW U.S. SIDE ARGUED THAT AAFEE'S HQ AND THE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, WHICH HANDLES FAMILY HOUSEHOLD GOODS, COULD BE LOGICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH DEPENDENT SUPPORT AND SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO MOVE ON THE BASE. WE ALSO ARGUED THAT THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OFFICE SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO MOVE BECAUSE OF ITS REQUIRED WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HELLENIC OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION WITH WHICH IT IS

COLLOCATED IN TEMPO 1. EVENTUALLY, BUT RELUCTANTLY, THE
GREEKS AGREED. THE EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT IS THAT WE
NOW HAVE 47 EXTRA SPACES ABOVE THE 1452 FIGURE FOR A TOTAL
OF 1499. THIS FACT WAS NOT LOST ON THE GREEKS. THEY
COMMENTED THAT AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF BARGAINING, THE U.S.
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PAGE 05 ATHENS 04236 071406Z

HAD MANAGED TO AVOID ANYTHING OTHER THAN A TOKEN
REDUCATION.

9. ACTION REQUEST: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF REVISED TEXTS
IN THIS MESSAGE BY OOB MAY 10, IF POSSIBLE, BUT NOT
LATER THAN OOB MAY 11. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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